



COPS *Fact Sheet*

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

www.cops.usdoj.gov

COPS Interoperable Communications Technology

COPS offers a variety of publications, products, and training opportunities to advance community policing and support its grant programs. COPS publications and products offer insights and experiences from others in the field addressing specific problems including:

- ✓ Call Management and Community Policing
- ✓ Law Enforcement Tech Guide: How to plan, purchase and manage technology (successfully!)
- ✓ Law Enforcement Responds to Terrorism: Lessons in Prevention and Preparedness
- ✓ Guidelines to Implement & Evaluate Crime Analysis & Mapping in Law Enforcement
- ✓ Geocoding in Law Enforcement

COPS also sponsors training opportunities and conferences to give law enforcement professionals an opportunity to learn, network, and exchange ideas. COPS publications and training opportunities are posted at COPS Online at www.cops.usdoj.gov.

Communications interoperability refers to the ability to talk across disciplines and jurisdictions via radio communications networks on demand, in real time. One of the major issues currently facing emergency services providers is the inability of first responders to communicate with each other. Unfortunately, many emergency service providers rely on communications systems developed to meet their own unique needs that are often not compatible with those of neighboring agencies.

The COPS Office is awarding more than \$66 million in 2003 to address this growing need through the COPS Interoperable Communications Technology grant program. This program partners COPS with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) during the planning, delivery, and management phases. FEMA and COPS are collaborating on the grant program in order to maximize the strategic impact of the funding that is available for interoperable communications equipment. DHS and the Department of Justice (DOJ) were appropriated a total of \$146.5 million to help communities develop effective interoperable communications systems for public safety and emergency services providers.

Interoperable Communications Technology grants fund demonstration projects that explore uses of equipment and technologies to increase interoperability among the law enforcement, fire service, and emergency medical service communities. These projects are the result of thorough and rigorous planning, and demonstrate how new technologies and operating methods can help communities achieve interoperability.

Some of the specific activities these grants fund include:

- Purchasing interoperable communications equipment for multi-disciplinary and multi-jurisdictional public safety communications projects.
- Providing local jurisdictions with the equipment or services they need to participate on larger public safety, commercial, or other shared networks.
- Purchasing and deploying of portable gateway solutions.
- Any other technology that can be demonstrated to significantly increase interoperability within the public safety community.

The recipients of the COPS FY 2003 Interoperable Communications Technology grants include:

- Los Angeles, California
- San Jose, California
- Orange County, Florida
- Indianapolis, Indiana
- Louisville and Jefferson County Metro, Kentucky
- New Orleans, Louisiana
- Baltimore, Maryland
- Boston, Massachusetts
- Kansas City, Missouri
- Las Vegas, Nevada
- Newark, New Jersey
- Nassau County, New York
- Columbus, Ohio
- Houston, Texas

Cost Share Requirements

Grant awards will require a 25 percent non-federal cost share. The source of the match funds must be identified in the grant application.

Contact COPS

For more information, call the U.S. Department of Justice Response Center at 800.421.6770, or visit COPS Online at www.cops.usdoj.gov.

